

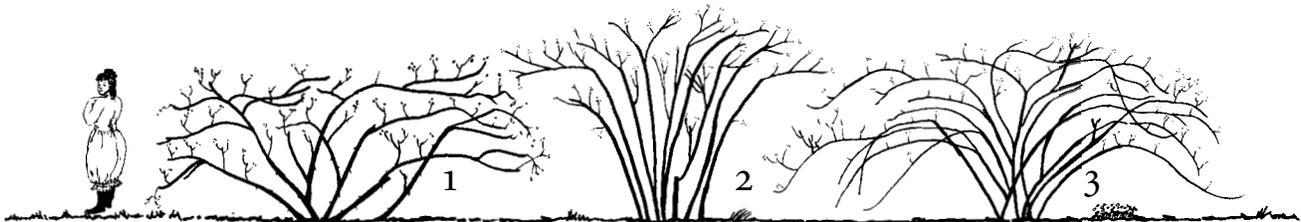
Hybrid Chinas

This group and its relatives—Hybrid Bourbons, Hybrid Noisettes, etc.—were recognized by 19th-century authors like William Paul, who were attempting to categorize the vast array of new hybrids. The offspring of unions between once-flowering European roses and repeat-flowering Chinas, Teas, Bourbons and Portlands, they resemble the old roses but have smoother foliage and stems, a prolonged season of bloom, and occasional fall flowers. Hybrid Chinas embody attributes that make them particularly useful to today's gardeners. In the warmest parts of California and the South, mild climates lacking winter chill, where many Old European roses bloom less copiously, these beauties perform superbly and bring the charm of old-world roses to the garden. Conversely, they may require more protection in colder areas. Because many of the Hybrid Chinas are tall, arching growers, they may often be put to use as climbers of extravagant abundance.

Habit

All Hybrid Chinas are essentially once-bloomers, and because their size may require occasional hard pruning, it is important to remember to cut them back just after their bloom, so that new growth may form on which next year's flowers will come. We have found that they will take pruning by up to a third in winter and still bloom well, but are far more abundant if not winter pruned. We recognize three distinct habits of growth.

1. (E.g., MALTON) The most robust Hybrid Chinas are heavy-caned and thorned, rather broadly arching to as tall as 7' to 10', perhaps suggesting a Bourbon influence.
2. (E.g., "RUTH'S GERMAN ROSE") The tall, more slender-caned types with few thorns, smaller foliage and flowers, showing affinity to Gallicas, and closely suckering.
3. (E.g., MME. PLANTIER) A group similar to the second, also more slender-caned, suckering more broadly, arching and growing wider than tall.



ALEXANDRE LAQUEMENT*

HCh (G) o/ff/2 unknown, unknown [Pickering]
Very double flowers of rose purple marked and spotted deep pink. The flowers have almost a modern look in the bud; and as pointed out by Suzanne Verrier, the lack of extreme disease resistance suggests this bears more than old rose blood. An excellent Gallica/Hybrid China with rather mysterious origins.

"ALICE VENA" (see OMBRÉE PARFAITE)

BELLE DE CRÉCY (see Gallicas)

"BELLE DES JARDINS"*

HCh o/f/3 Guillot et fils, unknown [Guillot]
From the Guillot nursery in France we received this rose, a rich pink blossom tinted cherry pink within and lilac at the edges. It has great poise and the most charming wave of

movement in the petals; sort of tilt-a-whirl of packed petals. The original rose of this name, a Gallica, should be striped, mauve and lilac pink.

BRENNUS

HCh r/fff/1 Laffay, 1830 [Lowe]
Light carmine, or purply-rose with a bright scarlet eye; the flowers poised in a Bourbon manner, borne in clusters. Another of the historic parents of the Hybrid Perpetuals; this and MALTON are striking in their color effects and ought to be grown more widely.

CARDINAL DE RICHELIEU (see Gallicas)

CRÊPE ROSE

HCh o/fff/1 Levet, 1870 [Robinson, collected]
Luxurious raspberry-pink blooms, very large and globular, the petals beautifully imbricated, with a fruity Damask fra-

grance. Whether this variety is correctly identified is a hotly debated topic.

“DOUBLE PLUM” (see VELOURS EPISCOPAL)

HCh o/fff/3 unknown, found [HRG; Seidel]
A dark gem among roses, its plum purple flowers overcast with dusky magenta, packed in a pompon of petals. Collected by Douglas Seidel in 1976 at Mrs. Keays' home at Creekside, and distributed at one time as “MRS. KEAYS' 'The Bishop.'”

DUC D'ANGOULÈME

[“MAGGIE'S ROSE”]

HCh (C) o/fff/3 Holland, 1821 [Pagliari]
Flowers vivid lavender-blue, shading dark to pale with a button eye. A most striking rose, florally perfect, on a moderate, arching shrub. We grow more and more convinced of the likely correctness of this identification by John MacGregor.

DUC DE CAMBRIDGE

HCh (D) o/fff/1 unknown, pre-1848 [Lowe/Pickering]
Crimson-mauve roughly quartered flowers on a large, spreading plant, stout of cane. We have received this from two sources, but are unable to ascertain if the i.d. is correct; both a Hybrid Perpetual and a Damask were introduced under this name.

DUCHESS D'ANGOULÈME

[“WAX ROSE”]

HCh (G) o/fff/2 Mielliez?, 1818? [unknown]
Exquisite shell-pink flowers come very cupped with tissue-like petals and a sweet Damask scent mingled with face powder; one of the most requested of the once-blooming roses we grow.

FÉLICIE

“SULTANE FAVORITE”

HCh (G) o/fff/2 Vibert, 1823 [SJHRG]
Like the ranunculus-flowered Gallicas, this sports an abundance of small double flowers of magenta-pink fading paler, very complex in its blend of colors. It has the small foliage often seen in old rose hybrids that involved China roses, and should probably be considered a Hybrid China. Tall thornless stems stretch enough to be used on a pillar, fence or wall.

“FÉLICITÉ BOHAIN”*

HCh o/fff/1 unknown, 1866 [SJHRG]
Globular flowers open cupped, very full and with a very pronounced button-eye, clear pink shaded with palest violet. As they dry the petals turn blue.

DUCHESS DE MONTEBELLO (see Gallicas)

HIPPOLYTE

HCh (G) o/ff/2 unknown, pre-1842 [Pickering; HRG]
An old variety that adorns many, many graves and old gardens in America. Smooth stems, handsome Centifolia-like foliage, flowers deep bright purple-black shaded lavender. A royal color appropriate to the Queen of the Amazons.

“HUNTINGTON ‘THE BISHOP’*”

HCh o/ff/2 unknown, unknown [Huntington]
We have grown this for twenty-five years or more, having obtained it from the Huntington Gardens where it was “identified.” More than any other rose we have seen labeled ‘The Bishop’, this resembles the portait in Redouté. The flowers are cupped, with many petals of rose-crimson to purple-red, lacking the violet-blue tones found in Graham Thomas' THE BISHOP and in “MRS. KEAY'S ‘THE BISHOP’” or “ALICE VENA.” The plant is also taller than these, and though it has a certain Gallica appearance, is a Hybrid China.

JUNO

HCh (C) o/fff/1 Laffay, 1847 [Pickering]
Very large and delicate pink flowers; perfectly globular form. The smooth stems and foliage indicate China influence; we remove it from its misplacement among Centifolias. Brent Dickerson lists only a red Gallica of this name (JUNON).

“LA NOBLESSE”*

HCh (C) o/fff/1 unknown/unknown [Pickering]
More compact in habit and much later to bloom than the CABBAGE ROSE, this delightful Centifolia should be much coveted. It has, sadly, been lost from our collection.

LA NOBLESSE

HCh (HP) o/ff/1 Pastouret/Souper et Notting, 1857 [Schultheis]

Long a source of confusion for us, LA NOBLESSE first came to us in the form of a rather lovely, true Centifolia, which we have lost and been unable to replace. The original rose of this name, from Souper et Notting, we learned from Brent Dickerson was introduced as a Hybrid Perpetual. We feel it belongs best in this once-blooming group. Modest rose pink flowers of cupped form in medium clusters. Fragrant and very graceful.

MALTON

[“BEALES' MALTON”]

HCh r/ff/1 Guerin, 1830 [Lykke]
A tall arching shrub with a reddish cast to the leaves and thorns, deep rose-red flowers with pink reverses, and a sweet scent. This impressive grower can reach 10' tall and as broad, but merits the space it takes with a fine display and a few late flowers.

“MARY LAWRENCE'S SHELL ROSE”

HCh o/fff/3 unknown, pre-1799 [Huntington]
Three roses embody the exceptional beauty of the Hybrid Chinas: “RUTH'S STEEPLE ROSE,” “RUTH'S GERMAN ROSE” and this. All have light slender canes, smallish formal flowers of many petals, and coloring that is out of the ordinary. The “SHELL ROSE” is deep, dusky rose-crimson with a small green pointel in the center of each flower.

MERCÉDÈS*

HCh (G) o/ff/2 Vibert, 1847 unknown
Flowers globular in the bud open to full cups of lilac-flesh or blush, stained with lavender pink. Dickerson alludes to the

possibility that this was a Gallica/Centifolia cross; what we have been given under this name is most certainly what we would consider a Hybrid China, slender-stemmed, barely armed with thorns, tall and arching, and with all the graces of this superb group of hybrid roses.

MME. PLANTIER

HCh (HN) o/fff/3 Plantier, 1835 [Robinson, collected]
A favorite of Vita Sackville-West and still growing in the orchard at Sissinghurst, we find this beauty scattered throughout old gardens in California. Four-inch flowers of ivory-white touched pink, full and globular; of clambering growth.

“MRS. KEAYS’ RED DAMASK”—*Missing from our collection.*

“MRS. KEAYS’ ‘THE BISHOP’” (see VELOURS EPISCOPAL)

“NATHALIE’S HIGH HILLS”

HCh o/fff/1 unknown, found [Huntington]
Smooth, shiny leaves surround large flowers, rich deep pink with warm cherry shades, full and exquisitely formed, in great bouquets. Wonderfully fragrant!

NOUVEAU MONDE

HCh o/fff/3 unknown, pre-1900 [Worl; l’Haÿ]
Medium pink flowers with perfect flat form and a large button eye in profusion on a large arching shrub. Remarkable in full bloom, with a prolonged season.

NUBIENNE

HCh o/ff/2 Laffay, 1825 [SJHRG]
Very dark red to wine red blossoms, double, reflexing fully. A charming old Gallica-China hybrid.

“OLD HOMESTEAD”

HCh o/ff/2 unknown, found [HRG]
Large flounced blooms of claret-pink shaded maroon, painted with lilac on the backs and bases of the petals, the paler color blushing out over the whole with age. As with so many of the Hybrid Chinas, where the color spectrums of very different rose groups were blended, the colors of this rose are an event in time.

“OLD RED RUNAROUND”

HCh o/fff/2 unknown, found 20th c. [Robinson]
Found in more old gardens, cemeteries and roadsides than perhaps any other rose in America, this small red pompon flowered rose is a true survivor.

OMBRÉE PARFAITE*

[ALICE VENA, CORA]

HCh (G) o/ff/3 Vibert, 1823 [Pickering]
Deep violet to violet-black flowers, double and crisply formed with a lovely light scent. This appears to be identical with the found rose ALICE VENA, which has been in commerce for over a decade. Whether or not this is for certain Vibert’s introduction of 1823 we leave to the next decade of research.

“ORPHELINE DE JUILLET”—*Missing from our collection.*

“RUTH’S GERMAN ROSE”

HCh o/fff/2 unknown, found [Knopf]
We never suspected that this unassuming rose would become one of our all-time favorites. The formal round flowers are a mix of dusky lavender and pale lilac with touches of rich carmine.

“RUTH’S STEEPLE ROSE”

HCh o/fff/2 unknown, found [Knopf]
Deep rose-madder flowers with folded petals in a formal array surrounding a tall green pointel, the “steeple.” One of our favorites for bouquets as it is so unique, making a handsome foil to the green-eyed flowers of MME. HARDY.

SHAILER’S PROVENCE

[GRACILIS]

HCh (HBslt) o/fff/2 Shailer, 1796 [Huntington]
A most distinctive rose, with cupped flowers, crêpey petals of blush-pink with warm tones, small foliage with lovely poise and relatively smooth stems; the plant tends to sucker widely.

“THE BISHOP”*

[THE BISHOP OF L’ÉVÊQUE OF GRAHAM THOMAS]

HCh o/ff/2 unknown; Thomas, unknown [Pickering]

The name ‘THE BISHOP’ has become symbolic of the confusion that we find in the naming of old foundling roses. The rose we offer here is the rose mentioned by Graham Thomas as his candidate for the old Gallica rose L’ÉVÊQUE. It is a slender stemmed Hybrid China with very beautifully formed blooms, double, flat, packed with petals of rich rosy purple which turned to slate blue as they age.

Another candidate for the rose labeled L’ÉVÊQUE in Redouté’s *Les Roses* was put forward some twenty-five years ago at the Huntington Gardens. For this rose see “HUNTINGTON ‘THE BISHOP.’” A third rose which has been distributed by some nurseries as ‘THE BISHOP’ is the rose we list below, VELOURS EPISCOPAL, also known under the found name “DOUBLE PLUM” and as “MRS. KEAYS’ ‘THE BISHOP.’”

We offer no explanations of which may be the real L’ÉVÊQUE, Gallica from before 1790, except to state that we don’t believe any of these roses to be a true Gallica, and Hybrid Chinas would not likely have been introduced so early, unless, as some speculate, there were earlier hybrids between European roses and Chinas that came into Europe through Italy in the 18th century or earlier.

VELOURS EPISCOPAL

[“DOUBLE PLUM,” “MRS. KEAY’S ‘THE BISHOP’”]

HCh o/fff/2 unknown, pre-1863 [SJHRG]
Handsome globular flowers of rich crimson shade to slate-purple with age. A heavy bloomer of splendid coloring. We believe this is identical with the found rose “DOUBLE PLUM” and with what is sold commonly as THE BISHOP.